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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/787,246 Confirmation No. : 1271  
First Named Inventor : Guenter JOKSCHAS  
Filed : February 27, 2004  
TC/A.U. : 1724  
Examiner : M. C. T. Pham  
  
Docket No. : 037141.53216US  
Customer No. : 23911  
  
Title : Fuel Filter

**REPLY TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

**Mail Stop AF**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Responsive to the Final Office Action mailed October 24, 2005 in the above-identified patent application, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks. Claims 1-15 are presented for further examination.

The rejections of Claims 1-7 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Schaupp, U.S. 4,502,955 and Daniels, U.S. 4,822,387 and of Claims 8-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Schaupp and Daniels in view of Hoffman, U.S. 3,418,789 are each respectfully traversed.

Initially, with respect to the rejection of Claims 1-7 and 15 over Schaupp and Daniels, one having ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine these references. Schaupp relates to a filter assembly for separating contaminants from liquid fuel (e.g., diesel fuel). Daniels, on the other hand, relates to a filter assembly for filtering pressurized air or other gases. These two fields of endeavor are distinct, and there is no reason to believe that the structural features of a gas filter would be appropriate in a liquid filter. Thus,